

Tape # 1056 Interview with Frank (Ponzo) Mastriano by Fred Stones

This is Fred Stones. On January the 27th in 1986, I'm talking to Frank and Helen Mastriano. Frank's name that he's known by more than Frank is Ponzo, and this is Ponzo Mastriano that I'm talking to today. Ponzo I appreciate you letting me come down here and talk to you about this ah about your life and the experiences you've had here in town. Where were you born?

Standard Mine Lafayette It's still considered Lafayette. At the Red Row, ah you know where the railroad track went down there Yeah the Standard Mine southeast of town, that's right and there was about eight houses that were all painted red. That's where I was born, March the 2nd, 1913.

Who was your father?

Domonic Mastriano from Italy. He told me many times what part but I forget the right name. My mother also is from Italy, and from there we moved to Lafayette after a flood took our home down to the Standard Mine, there was four or five houses involved there. And what's the name of the creek down here Coal Creek Coal Creek, that's the one that had a flash flood and took our house away and from there we moved to Lafayette. And in 1919 it was a bad flu epidemic and it was like, well I don't know, you call it sheep on the floor, you know no hospital or nothing, everybody - that flu epidemic was going on then, we're all laying on the floor and Doc Porter saved a lot of us and also it was in the Christian Science Building across from the Jewell Theater there. And in 1921 was the flood, that's when we moved to Lafayette. I can remember my mother running across the field with about three kids, "Come on climb under the fence," you know "Crawl under the fence" and take off and people took us in, which was real nice - then I think that's about all there.

Where did you live here in Lafayette?

Oh several places. The last place we lived in was where the veterinary place is downtown. Down Main street on Public Road there. Right.

How long have you lived here at 605 East Simpson?

Since 1963, so that would be about 22, 23 years.

OK when did you and Helen get married?

Ah, lets see, June the 26th 1936, (50 years ago says Helen in the background) in Glenwood Springs, not Glenwood Springs, we was at a farm in Sternum, I was with the firemen and we ran off and got married at Manitou Colorado.

How many children did you have?

One.

What was his name?

Frank. Frankie Joe we called him.

Where is he now?

Passed away. He's passed away. There is a picture of him over there.

Do you mind telling me what happened to him, now if you don't want us

Yes, its ah, he was a pretty good athlete up here, not bragging about him but then ah make a story short, he stopped here, never sick a day in his life, he just got through playing racketball , and he stopped here and and they were headed for North Fork, West Virginia where his son was stationed, and he wanted us to go along but it was too long of a trip so we stayed home and he was in shorts, gee he looked real nice, you know no kidding and we got word from them pretty soon that of Dad you should have been with em, a nice trip. He was working for IBM at the time, and the next report we get he was feeding the baby, grabbed himself by the chest, walked, says I'll be alright, and walked ten feet BOOM. And that was . . .

That's hard on the people that's left, but its you know, if we all have to go thats the RIGHT and it happens so far away you know
Yes We have a good friend Jack Barr which still lives and his friend - They flew down there and got the body and brought it back and I asked Jack "How much" and he says "Not a dime". They brought Dolores back first, and flew back and brought our son back which we offered to pay and he wouldn't receive no pay which I'm really grateful for.

Is that the Jack Barr southwest of Louisville there? Yes. They're a nice family. Yes.

How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Let's see there's six brothers and three sisters.

Can you name them for me without thinking to hard?

Yeah, I think so. Let's see Bertina, she's the oldest 77, Tony is 74, Frank, that's me 73, I better say Ponzo, I will be March the 2nd so I'll say 73, Lefty is 72, then came Virginia I ah alright 68, then there's Mike, he passed away with cancer, by catching his foot in a door, Earl, which is next, then Joel, Lefty that's his nickname and Virginia in Louisville, and Eva, then Elmer.

So you had quite a family. Right. There was 11 of us involved and also we all live in a radius of 18 miles, 18-20 miles which is YET YET no, two of them passed away. Yeah but I mean the rest of them are all around this area.

Alright, tell me about your grandchildren.

I'd rather have Helen tell you that. Let her get (We have five grandchildren, four grandsons and one granddaughter. Three great-grandchildren.)

That's great. Where are they?

(They are all within this territory.) There're all right around here where they are close to you. Yes. That's great.

Alright lets go back a little ways now when you were married you went on a fireman's convention. Right. How long were you with the firemen?

Well, I first joined it in 1930, I was still in high school, in the tenth grade. And they, a bunch of firemen came up and says we want six or eight of you guys come out and challenge our guys so we can have more strength in the fire department for running, you know. Six of us made it, Jake Lewis, Joe Lastoka, Joe Hurd, Alex Wasilkow, myself, and there was one more. Anyhow that was real good, we all made the team in 1930, when I first joined the fire department.

How long were you in the fire department?

Until after I quit running. Till after you quit running. Yeah, about five or six years.

And you had gone to Colorado Springs to a convention down there ah. . .

Not Colorado Springs but ah (Manitou Springs) oh Manitou Springs . . no where the convention . . . Glenwood Springs Glenwood Springs . . (no not when we were married). . No when we then . . he's talking about the convention ain't cha. Well I was talking about the time you were married. Yeah. The time you were married. Oh, so I, we went to Manitou Manitou Springs from ah and you ran off and got married down there Right. Right. Did your folks know you were going to be married? No. So it was a romantic elopment then. Right. (Yeah). And I was 23 years old at the time. That's great.

What, ah what happened when the firemen found out you had gotten married?

Well, (not very much) you know (. . . . why are we home) well the thing that happened there, ah, when we first joined the fire department in 1930, Greekys bowels hadn't moved for two or three weeks. (. . . . something about not putting that on tape). Why not? And so he says, they brought some pluta water in there. I never heard of the damn stuff, anyhow, Greek says "I won't take none unless Ponzio takes some". And like a damn fool I did, and to make a story short, I wet the bed that night. . . and you know what we had a fireman's ah picnic up here at ah . . oh Delwig ran the place . . . Stony Point, up above Boulder there, I think Left Hand Canyon, somewhere up there. . . and the fireman all brought their wives fried the chicken, gees we had more pheasants there than God knows what. . . the sheriff give them permission at that time, you know it wouldn't bother nobody. And they brought that damn sheet, or they made out like it was the sheet that I done my dirty work there in ah Grand Junction. . . of course it was mustard smeared all over. . . I grabbed that damn thing, and run down to the river. Edna Scofield and them was responsible for that version of it. That was nice, that was the good part, of course there was a little click, Joe Mathias was the guy, you know he had his own fire truck and all this balony.

Tell me, tell me now about the initiation of the old fire department.

Oh man, that's the worst I ever seen in my life. I know, that's why I want you to tell me about it. For the initiation they lock you in the

cell, the only time I've been in jail, and they got you handcuffed so you can't leave, and they got the damned cell locked so . . . you're in shorts, that's all, just in shorts, so they walk you up the stairs up above the old city hall there. . . and they got ah what do you call this from mashes . . . that's makes clinkers, all over the. . . and you're handcuffed, they handcuff you in front, cause this comes later, I'll tell you that later. So they get you up there, and their beating the hell out of the walls, tin cans, man you don't know where, cause your blindfolded, you can't see a damn. . . First thing they give you a pair of boxing gloves. You start . . . somebody's punching you one, you swinging wild, and that's the bad point. Then they shave you, dry shave you with sandpaper, you know Jesus if you had a mustache. They would pluck your mustache you know, oh man, that was terrible. And then they give you something that made you thirsty, so then "Oh give them a drink". So they got a teapot there, you know, full of donuts and weinies, so he needs a drink, and its full of beer too so it looks bad. . . and they give them a drink. You drink out of it and then they take the ah . . . Oh what the hell (Blindfold) blindfold off and let you see what the heck happened there. So then pretty soon here comes the bad part in my book, well at first they put a raw oyster on a string down your throat, you know, then they jerk that damned thing up, boy I never saw, I'd hate to go through it again. Then they say alright its a , they put a pair of boots on you, its already wired, we don't know this, they got a coil hooked to it you know. So they says "Well to be a fireman you got to climb this pole". So you climb that damned pole, underneath when you come down you got in the water, and they hit you with that juice. Jesus, give us a dance you know, you start. . . boy and they knock you down. . . three or four times. So then they give you the old, there's a lot more to it but I forget a lot of it, I wouldn't go through it again, I'll tell you that. They give you two pieces of ice, one in each hand, you got to hold on to that while they give you the oath - you know - and if you drop one you got to go through it again. You made sure you held on. And then ah the biggest, badest, the worst part was, they had a trolly, length of the damn building, and they hooked you up with that ah belt, they have a certain belt there, and thats why the hands had to be here. And they had those lathes doubled. And brother if you could hold still and didn't cry out - you know - then you'd get less cause they thought they were hurting you. And brother they take you down, then they bring you back and you're bodys like hamburger. I had to sit on a pillow in school, thats when we joined the fire department in 1930.

Alright that, that has stopped now, they don't do that anymore. Yes, I know that. They finally made them stop that. Somebody could have had a heart attack. Well sure. And they. . . Well there was some people hurt in some of that . . . and they also put cow itch down your neck at that time, which was bad. That was a terrible one they filled my hair with gum too, Did they? And you know, if anybody, the two worst guys I seen go through it, Joe Lastoka was one, cried like a baby you know, and Harry Flint. But, they worked those guys over good. Ah sure. They worked them over good.

Tell me a little bit about the ball team you was on.

Well, we had a good ball team, for a little town, Fred, this was a real good town for athletes. No kidding. Well, I don't say we was better than Louisville, or anybody, but we happened to have a pretty good team. We went to the finals in 1928, and we played four teams, we played Denver

and Pueblo and beat both of them, and then an those two was supposed to - I think Chip _____ can verify this too, was supposed to play the winner of Puablo and Denver, which they made us play Denver and Pueblo again before that ever happened. And I was the only pitcher, Greeky came in, and we only had about twelve players. Which we had an anniversary here about three years ago, 50th Ankniversary from the. . . for 1928 ball team, and ten or eleven of them were still. . . Can you remember some of them? Yeah, Greeky Lewis, Jimmy Phyllas, Fred Milliken, myself, my brother Tony, ah Roy Winn, Husband, Jimmy Husband, Andy Robuck, John Benton, . . . oh that was for another ball team, that was one of the teams that beat us, he's a doctor now in Denver, a good doctor. That was McGlone. We had . . . this coach we got came from the East, and was a good coach. He showed us all we knew and all we wanted to know about baseball. You played on the softball team too . . and baseball too, yes for years. . . when they had the good softball teams here . . . Yes. Fast pitch, no slow pitch. Been to the world's tournament two times, won the state four times, so ah . . . we had good players, no kidding. Where did you go on your national tournaments? Pheonix Arizona in 1947, and we won it again the state, and represented Colorado in Selma California. And ah California, I mean the one in Pheonix, we played only - lets see - three games OK three games, Mikie, my brother beat California 3 to 2, so we needed help, so we wired Larry Bolliq , one of the best pitchers we've ever seen around here, and "are you willing to come to Pheonix if we give you \$100.00 and fly you" and he says "Yes, but guarantee me a run." Holy Cow, we . . what are you going to say, you got to guarantee him a run. So anyhow, he gets beat one to nothing, struck out 17, allowed one hit. Next day, thats playing Texas, next day we played Florida, and we get beat one to nothing, no hitter and 17 strike-outs, and we get beat one to nothing again. Only four runs scored in the whole damned thing, and we, thats ah what you call real pitching. . . That's right . . . if you go there, you better have two or three pitchers. I remember Larry Bolliq . . . Yes . . .he was good. There was only one other . . . Mike was a good pitcher, but he wouldn't listen, he tried to strike everybody out. And there was another good guy from Denver, Sterkle, I forget his first name, boy he was a good one. He left here and went to Catipiller, where they make those big Catipiller's you know . . . I don't know how to explain it . . . tractors and all that kind of _____, done good. And I won the state, we won the state, with a bunch of the kids still living around here in 19__ gee, __40, don't , I don't want to give you the date on that because I can't come up with it. There was Johnny Gaz, Merele Roberts, Stephens, ah who (_____), no he wasn't on that team, ah, not Fred Milliken either, I was trying to think who the heck . . . oh Dyer. What was his, no this is, Waldor, Jim Waldor, MacDonald, ah Alderson, Cliff Alderson Jr., Roy Winn, not Roy Winn, . . . I forget that team, I had a softball with all the names on it, now and somebody conipped it, so we won the state there, and doc wouldn't let me go to Missouri to the state, United States tournament, so I asked the town if they would send Pinky Davis in my place, cause he knew a little bit about the game and they done good down there, really good.

Do you remember the night you played Public Service down at City Park, in Denver for the State Championship in softball . . . that was ah I think before the war. . . and I think Larry Bolliq pitched that night for Public Service, and you beat Public Service, I think it was 3 to 2, and that won the State Championship?

Yeah, we won the state there, yeah. I think I was running that damn ball team. We won the State there. Now, was this the. . . no that's a different team. This is the team that West was on, Everett and Zike' and you know that bunch of guys. Yeah, that was a good bunch of ball players. You bet they were. But I managed a team down there, Building and Trades was the name of the team back in the _____, which I had Larry Bollig, Art Unger, Wes Sutak, Romano; I had, I have to say when I had Bolig and them, I had the best team Colorado ever had. This is my estimation. I had all the good hitters, we won the state like nobody's ever, then we had the district, you know like Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico came down. You know for the district, this area, four state area. So Bollig goes through everybody like nobody's business. Mikey leaves for the service, and Walt Schmitt from Fort Luption was the other reserve pitcher; so I'm down to Larry Bollig. Larry, that day, which was my fault, or the owners fault; made him come to work. And he was working in the where they have the lumber yard, and they were lifting some planks, or 4 by 4's, or something; and they were heavy, and some of it I forget what the weight was; anyway he dropped it on his in-step and broke it. I had no more pitchers, so I had to use Art Unger for a pitcher and we got beat one to nothing for the state. There was good ball players in those days. You bet. They had some good teams. Yes, real good. You know that's when you wanted to play, you know, you had the desire, hell you'd walk from here to Louisville, or Canfield just to get in the game. The whole town went to the ball games. That's right, and they could have robbed this town so easy. That's right. Everybody was in Longmont, you know, they had a good following. The night they played down there at City Park, I think everybody in town was down there. Yes. All but the night cop. Yeah, and we beat that, Richardson was a hell of a good pitcher, and he didn't like coal mining. We beat him one to nothing, one to nothing, that was a good game. That was a good game. (Is he the one that made the remark, that he had to come out here to get beaten by a bunch of dumb coal miners.) Yeah. That was a good thing.

You mentioned going in the mine. Yes. Tell me a little about that.
What mine did you work in?

I worked in the Hiway Mine, the first mine I ever worked in was the old Morrison, over here by the State mine, over there. And from there I went to the Hiway Mine, and I didn't like that place there because the bottom was always heaving, you had to . . . and I didn't like the mines, and you had to get a job once you got married you better have something to do. So then I got a job with Centi, that's when Centinual had their ball club, Lenny Metz, and that bunch, we had a good team. Went to the state, ah, the old Centennial, that's what we called this one cause they was a lot of ones that were, there was two or three of them at Centennial. I got a map here. That was the one south of Louisville. Yes. Up on the hill. Yes. Ok. (No.) Well it would be (That's Monarch, its the one right by the cemetary). The one by the cemetary... oh the one, that's the second one. There was a lot of them, yeah cause Nesbitt was one. That's the one they sank after, after that. Right. And Lenny Metz was our manager, and then that's when I got to play, I don't know, eight or nine games, oh more than that; about eighteen games. And we were playing in Boulder and I slid like Pete Rose did, head first; for years, the reason I went that way, Lanny Metz, and they were having try-outs in Boulder for State Semi-Pro, so he lined us all up; everybody hit the dirt. Well, two guys ahead of me broke their leg, Greeky was one of them; sliding you know - hook sliding, and your spikes catch. And then I, my turn. Well,

I hit the dirt, head first, and I done that for five, six years. This night in Boulder, on third base, this is after, I was sliding into third base, and the spike that holds the bag down, was up that high, they didn't push it down in the ground for me. That's when I had a collapsed lung. That's what started everything. Was you working at Cenntennial when Bennie Phillips was hurt? Ah, lets see, what the heck year did Bennie I think that was about 39 or 40. No, No. No. No. Bennie, I wasn't with Bennie cause Bennie was getting ready to go to the Navy. Yeah. I played a lot of ball with Bennie, all through high school we played, and what a great athlete that kid was. And he had the personality, that's one of the best guys I ever knew that would come up and shake hands, win, lose or draw. He was a good guy. Sociable, real good. Can you tell me a little bit about his accident. Uh, that accident, he was supposed to go to the service, in the Navy, you know, and I think Earl Pickett was driving them over. Anyhow, they was headed for the , they were ah, Pickett was the motor, running the motor, and he hollered at Bennie to jump or something, to un-hook the thing, and the coal was here, you know the wall, and the car here. Bennie got in-between that, and they couldn't stop the cars, and pulled his arm off. Jesus, God, if that wasn't. . Otherwords it was just horseplay that caused it mostly . . . Well I won't say that cause then, cause he's pretty good, it was in my book, yes it could have been neglience. Cause I wasn't down there at the time, but they, I've heard these stories.

What kind of work did you do down in the mine?

Bailing coal. That's all, I was dumb, you had to be a coal miner, you couldn't be strong as a ox, or go down there and think you're going to do this and that. The old time coal miner knew how to, when they shot, they had machines that drilled underneath the coal, you know, sheared it, got all the coal underneath, then they sheared the metal, then you put dynamite on both sides of that shear, you know, two sticks of dynamite, then you put, you had to tamp it with, you got dust, dirt or anything . . . not dirt, you got stuff from the lime cutting underneath you know real fine stuff, and you made your tamping, and you tamped the holes, then hooked your wires to it, then leave. Then BOOM. And I worked with my brother-in-law over at Charlie Danivells over here, old Morrison. And old man Vallery, him and his two boys was next to us down in the mine, told us what to do. Now you got two shots, so don't go in there until both of them have exploded. Well like a damn fool, one went off; so he said let the smoke clear out of there. Then Charlie says "No, lets go in there". I says "Christ, the other one ain't went off yet, so the superintendent and the boss heard about it and says "How come you picked your brother". See they gave me a job cause I knew how to play ball, and they told me old John Salyer, Sam Salyers dad says "Ponzo, take somebody to be your buddy down there and I felt sorry for my brother-in-law. And he was telling me how he knew the mine, and he didn't know nothing. He almost got . . the superintendent heard that he said _____ right there. Yeah, I hand-loaded down there is what they called it at the time. That was before the day of the machines. No, they had machines. You mean . . . Loading machines. Yes. They just begin to come in Yeah at that time They had the cutting machines but the loading machines were just beginning. What did they call those things, they had a name for them. Oh, anyhow, that was the . . and you know why I was scared-you could hear the timber cracking. When that starts cracking, I'm leaving, boy.

I run to the main entrance. You know when mice hear a noise or something they run for the main entry. Hell, I beat the mice there. That's how fast I run down there.

You never did get any accident or anything in the mine? No. How, how when you hit this spike, lets go back to when you was playing ball, when you hit this spike, when you slid into third base, just what did it do to you?

Collapsed the lung. It collapsed your lung. Yeah, well I hemorrhaged, so 12 o'clock that night I'm in the hospital. So . . . other things developed, could have been miners consumption or ah what the hell ever. I had a tough time through the years, but you know I always felt this way, she's been good to me, my wife is real good to me. And also, you think the end of the world is there, you know, I was only 25 years old when this thing happened, and they told me not to play ball no more, which was, when your that young, thats why I went to managing then. And I played a little bit after that, but I didn't run like I used to. I stole, oh I don't know how many bases, I could move then, you know, after this happened I run the ball team. OK.

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Did you go to the service? No, I ah This lung kept you out of the service? Yes, I ah went, reported for duty (Physical) physical . . . Yeah I couldn't pass it so, this is why Doc Bartholomew was my doctor at the time. He said, "What the hell are you doing here"? And he says get out of the line, and that was it.

Were you ever in any other accidents? Not that I can recall. No automobile accidents or anything like that. No.

Alright lets uh, you went to school up here. Yes. Tell me about being in school up here.

I got to play football in the seventh grade, and this is no kidding. They were short of players, and Kenny Hyde was the coach at the time, and he says "Any of you kids like to put on a suit and scrimmage against the first team. Well, they only had 8-team, so there were several of us, and Greeky and Ellsworth O'Donnel were the two guards on the team, and anyhow I got my arm between them, tried to get through them, you know, and they broke my arm. Yeah, no kidding. And uh, I could get through there, boy I was getting through there getting big fullback, Curtis Aaron, you remember him? Oh, I remember him. I could tell . . . you know they tried to straight arm me, boy and I'd dive underneath the middle, so the next year I'd be in the eighth grade, right, so they put me in the ninth grade, so I'd be eligible to play, so I got to play five years with Lafayette High School. Greeky Lewis is the only other one I know. Angevine let us, he came in about that time. He didn't know I had previously played before that see, but my senior year they caught us. Angevine, Trusk the head of the Nothern League, they called me in his office, says we got reports on you. He says, "Here you are a senior, and your best year," I got to play the football season and three games, I think, or four of basketball, and that's when they nailed me. Your senior year is your best year. So anyhow, I was through. Boy, thats saddening.

You know I, thats the first time I can remember bawling you know, no kidding. That ah, Greeky, he left Lafayette and went to Erie for one year, on account of, Angevine at the time was the coach, wouldn't but him a pair of tennis shoes, you know . . I had a tough time getting them. Shoes were hard to get. So the following year Greeky came back, and then, Senior year, for Greeky, which we could have had a State Championship Team, I think. I ain't going to say anything about Angevine being a poor coach or nothing, but we had the team. We had Wasilkow, Greeky, Fat Williams which which is Carl Williams, ah Kilker, out here, you had ah . . Fred Cernich, ah Boone Davis, John Beckett, Ham Brown, Fat Vennette, myself, Treasure, and there was Vallard, two VALLard brothers, Bob Lord, Frank Rogel, I think ah Frank Zaike, oh we had to have Big Martin Graham. The thing I wanted to tell you that came to my mind now, do you remember, ah I was going to ask Bob Johnson, does he remember, we had ah sheep yard over here where ah Waneka's are living, Chuck Waneka. Used to be sheep and that, they had sheep in there. I meant to ah, I talked to Bob about what's going to happen, you know. And there's a real good guy, he got good memory for this time . . I says Bob before, I says, I think Fred Sones coming to my house, he's going to ask me a few questions. I'd like to verify one thing, "Do you remember the pickle factory"? Yes. Ok. I says a lot of people says I was nuts. So there's... Tell me about the pickle factory. Well, it wasn't running at the time, but it was there. The building was still there, down at Gooseberry Gulch, you know where the Bruggers, Lastoka's and all them live down there. Let's see Bagdonnis's. And it was over to the south of the, no north, of their home, in that area. And there was something else I wanted to tell you to, that ah. . . I think I marked something down here.

Remember Webber Garage being up here. OK, a lot of people don't. Norm apartments came after. Mayhoffers Hotel on the corner, that burned down, the grade school that burned down, then ah . . . here's one thing, right down here, well do you know where, do you know where Ruth West lives, behind there was a lumber yard. McAlisters, I think, was the name of that place . . . a lot of people . . . Naw, your talking out of your head. Right beyond that was the depot, down here was the depot. This house across the street is from the depot, I mean from the railroad track, Tracy's home. And at that time Dow, then the Post Office, and Braden the doctor was ah in back of Dow's Drug Store. Do you remember that? Go up that street like you did before we started and name off the businesses that was in that street there. Alright, let's see now. . starting with Dow Drugstore, alright Dow's Drugstore, in the back part of it was Doctor Braden's office, then the Post Office, then this - I can't get nobody to verify it - was a mortuary in between there, then Jensen's Barbershop, then Alderson's ah Hub Store, they called it at that time, then the pool hall, and then there was a store in between there, Minnie Hands or Blankenship run it down here, till they went up on the hill, then you had Sam Lucock's Dry Cleaning and Clothing, and there used to be a confectionary, that what you'd call it where they served ah ice cream and cokes and all that, and then the company store was next door, which everybody owed money to, that song they had, The Company Store - Sixteen Ton, then ah the Odd Fellows was upstairs, Doc Hurd had his office up there, till he moved to the Norm Department, then the bank was on the corner, the pool hall underneath, and across the street was Carnahan's Store, ah drug store.

Next door was Jack Gordon's Grocery Store, and next door was the livery barn, next door was the butcher shop, lets see Bill Moon run it first, and then Bonnells had it, and Moon lived next door anyhow, and then was the Christian Science Church, and then Iva's place there, which I told you was notions or whatever that was. Then you go up the street, now which way do you want to head? Well just go right on up the street clear up to the highway that was it, then no, then where Phillips 66 is, right now they got the glass place there. Yeah. Was, he had, he hauled coal from there. Ah, Dan Jones, and thats before ah, thats the guy I told you that run the. . . impliments . . . Kellers, and they were in together, you remember he married, I think ah, either Dan Jones daughter or the Justice of the Peace's daughter, Morgan. Ok, now we go down the street there, there ah Blankenship's had that restaurant there, well Fisher and Jimmy Graham had it later years. Then Joe Roderick's store, then there was a couple of filling stations, a lot of people don't remember. We lived in that house across from Clemmons, ah I don't know what's there now, forget what's there now, and they had a war one time, Clemmons and this guy, and they went down to 10¢ a gallon. So, what ended everything, this guy went across the street, bought 10 gallons from old man Clemmon, so then ah, we was pulling for that war there. Then on the corner there were, what's the hell her, Elsie's Place, John Schuster run it for a long time, but I forget the people's name was in before that. So you get down the line, you got ah, Starkey's, no Starkey's on the other side of the street, on the west side of the highway, and you got to the greenhouse. Well, the mill first was there, then the railroad track that went from Lafayette to Louisville, then the greenhouse, then there was the Strathmore Mine, right across the street there from where we lived. And then ah, nothing, then you had the Miller Farm, then you jumped across the street, you got Harmon's place, till Waneka's bought it, then you come up the line there. We lived right there where the veterinary is now, then you go up the line let's see who else had a . . . did I tell you Scholes Bakery on that when I was going up the line on there . . . Scholes was down between the company store. . . yeah. On main street down there and lets see . . . Heines had a garage down there. . . Right, right across from the ah greenhouse, where the Count's is at now, yeah, right. We used to go there yet when those crystal sets, you know you used to . . . Radio. . . Yeah. We gathered there and we didn't take our turns, they made us sweep the floor, anything so we'd get our turn. So then . . . Didn't they sell cars for awhile? Yes. They had the agency, Ford agency. They had it up above by the football field, they had that there long before. Well he run it about the same time ah, they used to keep the school bus in there, cause one of the brothers Ed Heines, I think, was one of them, drove it. You know the school bus to pick up the kids, thats before, when I was at the Standard Mine. We had to walk to school. No overshoes, or nothing. Boy, I don't know how we lived so long. I could say this, the good Lord's been good to me, you know, real, no kidding. Is ah, I was working in the, well lets go with this. . . you know where Blankenship's lived on the highway, right across the street from the street from Jimmy's place there. Ok, there was a Root-beer barrel there, and the garage right there. A lot of people don't remember the garage, then Joe Romano's Shoe Shop, then Peltier's lived in between there. Tommy John had a knick-knack store, groceries and remember Tommy Johns? Ok, then Minnehan's had a store there, and then Joe Roderick, I told you was in there, and then other businesses came in there, come to be a beer joint, er saloon, whatever you call it. George Bagdonis ran it, and across the street, I think, Kemp, remember

Kemp, he had a drugstore there, then Swennes got it, then your going down the line. Dad Bennett's pool hall was right in there, then across from there was the creamery, if you remember the creamery . . . Yes . . . and then there was two brothers, Billy Oats and Tommy Oats, they both owned two store buildings, was kind of a rooming house. They had that during the old, real long time ago. And then Nucci got that place where ah, what the hell, what's in there now, don't even know what's in there. It's some kind of a . . . it's a saloon again now, yeah, saloon and video . . . yeah. . . center or something, I, like that, right, across from the bank. Right. So, then ah, the bank moved in across the street after Roy put, let's see went down, then ah you go up to Lee Baker's from Heines store had there, at that time, then Lee Bakers grocery store, then Camel's run the filling station across from the cementary. Then you went up to Peterson's Ice House, that was the last, remember, business up there then. Clear up on the corner. Right. On the turn. And above that was the town water works, you know reservoir. They had two reservoirs. Right. Well, one where he got his own ice, you know, and then the reservoir there. So farther up they had ah water tanks, you know up there for standby. . Right.

Did you ever fish in those two little . . . Yes . . . lakes? The town, you betcha. My brother was ah, him and Truba Romans, and Tran Allard, if you remember those guys. They fished that damn thing out all the time, you know, they were up there day. . . and then the Plant Lake, where most of us kids learned to swim, which is called Waneka Lake now. And Alex ah . . . sh h what the hell is his last . . . got two brothers, one married, Ross was the guy that let us go in there. And I learned. from that experience, you know there was an apple orchard right south of the lake there, where we go down, wouldn't go home for dinner, go down there and get a hell of a belly-ache and go swimming. We'd go home when our Dad came home from the mines. And then ah, McCreedy was super(intendent) there, and then, high school, they built two piers, one for Louisville, right where you go in now, and over on the north side was one pier for the Lafayette guys. So those last, highschool kids would come and grab us and take us out to the pier, "Now, swim to shore boy". Dog fashion, but we made it, but we learned how to swim later. In other words they just threw you in. Yes, and they followed you tho, but a hell with that following you, you know. You wanted to learn your own way, cause we learned how on shore, you know, they'd throw us around like shit, gunny sacks. That was a lot of fun there, that where, so when I patrolled the lake up there, I patrolled that Plant Lake for about three years, and he told me to keep the kids off it, no way will I keep the kids off. Well he says, your going to lose your job, I says "Listen, you ain't big enough," He says, "Give me your card". I says, "You ain't big enough to take this card." I says, "Any other trustee comes up here I'll give it to him." He didn't want kids in there swimming, fishing, or anything. I says, "As long as I'm going to be the head guy, I'm going to watch them, I'm going to let them swim, because I snuck in here as many, many and ah, I also told him, "Hey, wouldn't you rather have these kids up here swimming, instead of being downtown getting into trouble, you know." Staying out of trouble. So then you go down this way, was the, in back of the middle school was our town teams baseball field, between the grade school and there, then . . before that tho, 1932 if you remember, WPA was on. Ok, they built a big cement swimming pool, Jesus, from one end, from this corner, clear up to the cementary. That was just west of the highschool, to get a perspective. Yes. There's a middle-school.

Where the parking lot is for the high school now. Right. Ok now go ahead from there. And nobody ever got to swim in it, that I know of ... Mexicans, or Spanish whatever put an injunction against them and they filled her in, and its still there. Remember, later we built a fence around there when Bolick and them was pitching so we could get a little money to buy bats and softballs, pay Larry a little bit of money on the side. So they had some good ball teams no kidding. Oh, do you remember the laundry being over where Nip Lewis's Yeah, I was just going to ask you from the old grade school yeah, that burned down there was the laundry and the creamery and dairy or whatever and a Jack Lewis and Nip Lewis run it for years Yeah and right there before they got it was a laundry, you know, I forget his name, Harry Crews he was the guy that went around town picking up the laundry you know, and the cleaning place also.

Can you tell me a little bit about George Bermont's store - Yes, oh boy, first before I forget it, right where the guy used to be the big shot for the telephone company , Sleppy, used to be the Methodist Church, we used to be behind that - there was a path - oh all the kids that - at that time What I'm saying, was high school and grade school kids together, there was Miliken's dad when they moved in after the high school moved up to the Middle School, you know, if you was in the sixth grade down to there, the rest of them moved up there and a Macrede is something they need like that now days , they let these kids get out of hand, he had us marching like soldiers...you talk about gettin' a whippin' I got it many a time but I never run home and told my dad cause I knew I'd get another one. If you did it, you uh, you asked for it, then what else was you going to ask me ... I ask you to tell me a little bit about George Bermont's store there he had a hitchin post along the store there, you know the farmers would come in on their horses, only one guy, two guys used to ride a horse to school and they had a place by the Methodist Church where they could feed 'em and water 'em, Curtis Herring was one and I think Kurt Hale was the other one that would ride horses to school .. yeah .. and the rest of them would walk so thats about all I think I can say there What did he have in that store, he had a whole lot of...oh everything, all coal mining stuff , you know, and groceries and meat , everything, What did he have upstairs, do you remember no, I don't I think it was uh , not even, I don't think he slept up there , I can't answer that question I don't know what was up there cause we never got to get up there. And I think probably he had a lot of, where he stored a lot of extras you know to ... yeah, George Bermont was a good guy, no kiddin'. And Ham Roberts was a good guy to my family and my brother a' Earl , he took care of them, gave them credit you know --- I liked Ham Roberts, I still do .

Now, tell me the story that you was telling me a little while ago about the bank holdup. Coins and what have you. Yeah, when they blew that bloomin' bank up you know everybody rushes down town we see the night policeman tied to a telephone pole or something anyhow and we go in there you know, there's still dust flying around and theres coins all over the floor there and a we didn't know what they were so help me God, lets see, I would have been about six or seven years old, I thought they were pennys and they turned out to be two and a half, five and ten dollar gold pieces and I think I told you maybe Carnahan that was running the drug store received many of them for ... give us a ... we'd give him a coin he'd give us a bar of candy in return so then the sheriff got a hold ... I think... Lum was the sheriff at the time got access to all the coins you know

after he got them. Ah, how long did the bank stay in business after that? That, it came back in lets see, yeah, cause ah, Maroney was President of the bank, the time it went broke. The bank went broke, and the people that had money in it received 10%, as far as I know, of their . . . you know at time if you had 3 or 4, 5 hundred dollars, you had plenty of dough. So they give you 10 % of your money back, after it went busted. So that was ah . . . several years after the bank blew up. It didn't . . . Did they ever catch the ones, that they No, not that I know of. Now, I never did see the get-away, but I was told by Bob Townsend, that he thought they got away in cars, and that Jake Alderson was out there. . . they pointed the gun at . . . they went down that street I guess, pointed it. . . these robbers, you know, and they. . . gun was pointed at Jake and he turned around and ran in the house. An, I just heard that.

Now, tell me about the militia. Well the militia . . . ah where they where they had them stationed .. Yes. . that was something, tho, they slept in the town where they destroyed a lot of people. They killed six guys at the Columbine Mine during the strike, I think it was 1927. And ah, at night some, you know they had refresh each group. There was a militia patrolling the mine, there was some that stayed in that ah . . . what did I call it, the. . not a mule barn, I just named that damn. . . oh, man . . . Where they kept horses. Yeah. and what have you. . Yeah, and hay, and straw and all that. Livery stable. Livery stable. They slept in there, and they had something like sleeping bags, you know, or a piece of canvas. And then, they killed 6 miners at the Columbine Mine. One guy is still alive, my brother, ah uncle he got . ah . no Arko, he got, they shot him through the pants, he showed us that, well he don't have it no more cause he passed away. And ah, that is ah, I forget the Governor's name that sent the troops out. . . if I heard it I'd know. . Johnson. . no, that was before Johnson, before Johnson. Johnson was a good governor, I thought. Yeah, and then they'd bring em eats you know, things like that. They went out and shot one guy from Lafayette, ah Brandon I think was his name, a Scotchman, was trying to get up on the tippie at the Columbine Mine to get ahold of that machine gun, and I think there would have been more, as ah we lost six people there. And thats bad. Was you still living at the Standard when that. . No No. You was in town then. Yes. Down at ah, where the veterinary place is ah. . . south of town, there. Lets see what else was in that area. if I left anything out, you know cause I forget alot. Pickle factory, Billy Olsen, Tom Knells had those two stores there, a creamery.

When did they build the city hall? The Old city hall. That I don't know. That was built before you remember? before you . . Yes. before we came to town. And ah, they had the hose cart up on the ah, the ah you know where you go in up the platform, you remember that platform. Yes. That used to come off of there, to go and put out fires.

When did they buy the first old truck, you remember that, you remember the little old red truck that they got? Gee, that was ah, you remember when ah, the mushroom plant burned down? That's when, I drove that truck up to that fire. And they still got that bloomin truck yet. And ah, Pewee Bagdonas had a Model A, so that had to be after I joined the fire department. So that had to be in the 30's

or 31. Me and Joe Dyer, the only two firemen in town, I guess, we drove that truck out there, and we couldn't make the hill hardly, up Gold Hill. Pewee Bagdonas had a Model A, and he got behind us thats the fastest that truck ever went. So when we got there, ah Denver was already there, Brighton, ah several other fire departments were there so we didn't have to do hardly no more, but all we had was a pick and an ax, you know and something like that so everybody was hooked up to . . . They still got that water tank setting out there. Yes. Yeah. You think it would have rusted and fallen over by now. Yeah, and that's quite awhile ago. Oh, yeah, its been a long time. And thats like Stutheit's ah, ah what do you call that, where ya, . . . the silo the silo still there. They built that into a house. . . . Yeah, I know it, it looks nice. Damn right. I talked to ah, Art ah, . . . the one that owned the place where the, he give the land to the Sisters over there to build their . . . Wasn't that Stutheit? Yes, Stutheit, Art was his name. I seen him getting mail out of the mailbox, boy that guy gets around pretty good, and he's pretty old. I think he's in his 90's. Only one left that I know of, so I stopped and talked to him. And I say's hey Art, you remember me. And he looked at me and says yeah, your one of the Mastriano's. I'll be god-darned, thats been your. . . three brothers, and one sister, I think was there, and plus the old man. They own a lot of land there, even where the schools at. The grade school, well they farmed all that, . Yes, never bothered nobody either. No. Harmon's, Waneka's, they were all good people.

Did you ever work on any of the farms around here? Plenty of them. Did ya? Hell yah. Worked for old man Burks, he had a thrashing machine, you know, and we'd go out and the reason we went out working you got a good meal. You got a good meal, course we had spahetti and that, but they had chicken, mashed potatoes, and all that. Worked for Millers, ah Frank Miller and his Dad, Lafayette Miller, down here. Worked for Gus Waneka, I worked for Harmon's, I worked for both Harmon's. What the heck was his namę up by the Plant Lake, Raymond and the other one, down here. . . the one that Clancey bought his farm from. . . Right . . . that was ah, boy good guy, yeah, I can't remember his name. And I worked for Ritolla's thats up above Bill Waneka's place there. She used to be my teacher, one of the daughters, and of course she was strict, you know pretty strict. She'd say "You ain't going to play football, unless you give me a book report." So like a damn fool, Helen Sekra give me hers, and I copied it word for word. She got an A and I got an F. She says "You're not playing football Friday." I says "Why, I got a good book report." She says, "Yes, but you copied it word for word", and she says "You never took a book out of the library in your life." So next week, she says "I want you to read this book and come back with a book report, no copying or no help." So I did and I got to play after that, you know. But you always think you know more that the teacher, which I wish I would have listened to her, she was a good one. Did you ever have Julia Harmon for a teacher. Yes. She was my teacher, Yes. You know Doc Hurt's wife and Raymond Bird out here, his wife were my teachers in school. Is that right? Whats her name up here, Doc's wife? Miranda. Miranda, yeah. I was telling Dixie, your mother was my teacher in school and the other one too, I forget her name

there were McCaslin's from Longmont, before they got married.

Let's see what do ah, tell me how did the, how did the ah, depression affect you? Ah, were you married at that time, No. You ah, ah it was in 32, when they declared DPA, you know, and we worked hard for the, that \$15 boy, I'll tell you that. Ah, George Faulkner, and one of the Stubbs, do you remember George Faulkner? Oh, yes. OK. Him and Brown used to run that garage there, Whitefront, Whitefront yeah. And then ah, we had to work on the waterworks up there at Elderado Springs, yeah we poured cement up there, and Faulkner was the big shot up there. He worked us hard boy, and wheeling cement and we give him